

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below.

Claims ~~1-20~~ (Canceled)

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21. (Previously presented) A data storage system comprising:

a first volume having a first storage volume characteristic;

a second volume having a second storage volume characteristic; and

a computing node coupled to said first volume and said second volume, wherein  
said computing node includes a file system for identifying a first file  
stored on said first volume and a second file stored on said second  
volume;

wherein said file system includes a directory structure having a directory which  
includes a first entry corresponding to said first file and a second entry  
corresponding to said second file.

22. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said file system  
is configured to allocate space on said first volume in response to receiving a request  
specifying said first storage volume characteristic and said second volume in response to  
receiving a request specifying said second storage volume characteristic from a software  
application.

23. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein ~~each~~ one of said  
first volume and said second volume comprises a single storage device.

24. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein ~~each~~ one of said  
first volume and said second volume comprises a multiple storage device system.

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 24, wherein said multiple storage device system is a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) storage system.

26. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

storing a first file on a first volume having a first storage volume characteristic based on a first set of storage characteristics desired for said first file, wherein said first file is located in a directory of a directory structure maintained by a file system; and

storing a second file on a second volume having a second storage volume characteristic based on a second set of storage characteristics desired for said second file, wherein said second file is located in said directory.

31 27. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said method further comprises allocating space on said first volume in response to receiving a request specifying said first storage volume characteristic and said second volume in response to receiving a request specifying said second storage volume characteristic from a software application.

28. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein ~~each~~ one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a single storage device.

29. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein said first volume and said second volume are each a logical volume, wherein at least one of said ~~each~~ logical volumes comprises a multiple storage device system.

30. (Original) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein said multiple storage device system is a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) storage system.

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31. (Previously presented) A computer memory containing a directory structure maintained by a file system having a first entry in a directory corresponding to a first file and a second entry in said directory corresponding to a second file, wherein said first file is stored on a first volume having a first set of storage characteristics and said second file is stored on a second volume having a second set of storage characteristics.

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Claims 32-33. (Canceled)

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34. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim [1] 20, wherein said entry includes another field containing an index number associated with metadata corresponding to said file.

35. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein said first volume and said second volume each specify a set of methods for manipulating said metadata and for allocating data blocks.

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Claims 36-37. (Canceled)

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38. (New) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said first entry and said second entry each include a field containing a volume identifier indicative of which of said first or said second volumes said corresponding file is stored within.

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39. (New) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said first entry and said second entry each include a field containing a volume identifier indicative of which of said first or said second volumes said corresponding file is stored within.

40. (New) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for operating a file system which identifies files stored by a first volume and a second volume, wherein said instructions are executable by a computing node to implement a method comprising:

storing a first file on a first volume having a first storage volume characteristic based on a first set of storage characteristics desired for said first file, wherein said first file is located in a directory of a directory structure maintained by a file system; and

storing a second file on a second volume having a second storage volume characteristic based on a second set of storage characteristics desired for said second file, wherein said second file is located in said directory.

41. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 40, wherein said method further comprises allocating space on said first volume in response to receiving a request specifying said first storage volume characteristic and said second volume in response to receiving a request specifying said second storage volume characteristic from a software application.

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42. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 40, wherein said first entry and said second entry each include a field containing a volume identifier indicative of which of said first or said second volumes said corresponding file is stored within.

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~~42~~. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a single storage device.

<sup>44</sup>  
~~43~~. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein one of said first volume and said second volume comprises a multiple storage device system.

<sup>45</sup>  
~~44~~. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim ~~43~~<sup>44</sup>, wherein said multiple storage device system is a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) storage system.

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